

Application No.: 09/899686

Case No.: 56345US002

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 23, 69-70, 74, 81-84 and amend claims 24-27, 32, 47, 52, 66, 71, 75-77, and 79 as follows:

1-23 (canceled)

24. (currently amended) The article of claim [[23]] 80 wherein the printable polymeric layer is insoluble in at least one solvent comprising ethanol, isopropanol, toluene, xylene, kerosene, gasoline, mineral spirits and mixtures thereof.

25. (currently amended) The article of claim [[23]] 80 wherein said layer exhibits enhanced surface slip.

26. (currently amended) The article of claim [[23]] 80 wherein said layer is transparent.

27. (currently amended) The article of claim [[23]] 80 wherein said layer ranges in thickness from about 5 microns to about 125 microns.

28-31 (canceled)

32. (currently amended) The article of claim [[23]] 80 further comprising a substrate.

33-36 (canceled)

37. (original) The article of claim 32 further comprising at least one bonding layer disposed between said printable layer and the substrate.

38-41 (canceled)

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42. (original) The article of claim 37 wherein the bonding layer comprises at least one colorant.

43-46 (canceled)

47. (currently amended) The article of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 80 further comprising a color layer.

48-51 (canceled)

52. (currently amended) The article of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 80 wherein said layer is disposed on retroreflective sheeting.

53-65 (canceled)

66. (currently amended) ~~[The] An~~ article ~~[[of claim 23 wherein the]]~~ comprising a flexible film substrate and a printable polymeric layer comprising~~[[es]]~~ the reaction product of:

a hard polymeric component having functionality and an elongation up to about 150% selected from the group consisting of a first polyurethane polymer, an acrylic polymer, a polymeric polyol and mixtures thereof;

a soft component having functionality and an elongation ranging from about 200% to about 800% after cross-linking selected from the group consisting of a second polyurethane polymer, a polymeric polyol, and mixtures thereof; and

a cross-linking agent~~[[.]]~~;

wherein said polymeric layer is soluble in at least one solvent comprising methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclohexanone, propylene glycol methyl ether acetate, ethyl acetate, propylene glycol methyl ether and mixtures thereof; and wherein said polymeric layer is flexible and stain resistant.

67. (previously presented) The article of claim 66 wherein the Shore Hardness of the hard component is at least about 40D.

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68. (previously presented) The article of claim 66 wherein the Shore Hardness of the hard component is at least about 70D.

69-70 (canceled)

71. (currently amended) The article of claim 66 wherein the hard component comprises a polyester polyol.

72. (previously presented) The article of claim 66 wherein the soft component comprises a polyurethane.

73. (previously added) The article of claim 66 wherein the hard component and soft component are thermoplastic.

74. (canceled)

75. (currently amended) The article of claim [[74]] 80 wherein the Shore D Hardness of the first polymer is at least about 40.

76. (currently amended) The article of claim [[74]] 80 wherein the first polymer comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a first polyurethane polymer, an acrylic polymer, and mixtures thereof.

77. (currently amended) The article of claim [[74]] 80 wherein the second polymer comprises a second polyurethane polymer.

78. (previously added) The article of claim 74 wherein the first polymer and second polymer are thermoplastic.

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79. (currently amended) The article of claim [[23]] 66 wherein said layer exhibits enhanced surface slip.

80. (previously presented) An article comprising a flexible film substrate and a printable polymeric layer comprising the reaction product of:

a hard component having functionality selected from the group consisting of a first polyurethane polymer, an acrylic polymer, a polymeric polyol and mixtures thereof; and

a soft component having functionality selected from the group consisting of a second polyurethane polymer, a polymeric polyol, and mixtures thereof;

wherein the polymeric layer is soluble in at least one solvent comprising acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclohexanone, propylene glycol methyl ether acetate, ethyl acetate, propylene glycol methyl ether and mixtures thereof; and wherein the polymeric layer is flexible and stain resistant.

81-84 (canceled)

85. (previously presented) Retroreflective sheeting comprising a printable polymeric layer comprising the reaction product of:

a hard component having functionality selected from the group consisting of a first polyurethane polymer, an acrylic polymer, a polymeric polyol and mixtures thereof; and

a soft component having functionality selected from the group consisting of a second polyurethane polymer, a polymeric polyol, and mixtures thereof;

wherein the polymeric layer is soluble in at least one solvent comprising acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, methyl isobutyl ketone, cyclohexanone, propylene glycol methyl ether acetate, ethyl acetate, propylene glycol methyl ether and mixtures thereof; and wherein the polymeric layer is flexible and stain resistant.